

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045591

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 CEQ-02 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NEA-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01

OMB-01 EPA-04 STR-08 AGR-20 HEW-08 COA-02 SS-14 NSC-10

TAR-02 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAJ-01 MC-02

ACDA-19 AEC-11 RSR-01 /253 R

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - PCB' S

REF.: OECD PARIS 03928

1. NON- PCB CONTAINING SMALL CAPACITORS ARE MANUFACTURED
IN U. S. FOR USES WHICH REQUIRE SMALL ELECTRICAL CAPACITY
AND FOR WHICH HIGHER DEGREE OF FLAMMABILITY ACCEPTABLE.
THESE USES ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF U. S. SMALL
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PAGE 02 STATE 045591

CAPACITOR MARKET. NON- PCB CAPACITORS CANNOT BE USED FOR SUCH MAJOR PURPOSES AS FLUORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURES, AIR CONDITIONERS, AND COMPUTERS.

2. GENERAL ELECTRIC NOW PRODUCING ON PILOT SCALE NON- PCB SMALL CAPACITORS FOR USE IN COMPUTERS. THESE EXPERIMENTAL CAPACITORS ARE BEING UTILIZED BY ONE MAJOR COMPUTER MANUFACTURER, PROBABLY IBM, IN PRODUCTS IT EXPORTS TO JAPAN. OTHER COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS DO NOT SEEM ABLE TO OBTAIN SIMILAR NON- PCB CAPACITORS. GE WOULD NOT ESTIMATE WHEN FULL- SCALE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF NON- PCB CAPACITORS COULD BE INITIATED, BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE WITHIN YEAR OR TWO. HOWEVER, SUCH PRODUCTION WOULD ONLY MEET NEEDS OF COMPUTER MARKET. PRODUCTION FOR LARGE VOLUME USES SUCH AS FLUORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURES AND AIR CONDITIONERS MIGHT REQUIRE AS LONG AS FIVE OR SIX YEARS. IMPORTED CAPACITORS PROBABLY COULD NOT BE USED BECAUSE OF SIZE AND CAPACITY DIFFERENCES, BUT THIS NOT CERTAIN.

3. REPORTS CONTRADICTORY AS TO WHETHER NEW STYLE NON- PCB CAPACITORS CAN BE MADE THE SAME SIZE AS PCB CAPACITORS. IF THEY CANNOT REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CAPACITORS WILL BE A PROBLEM. ABOUT 20-30 PERCENT OF CAPACITORS IN A TYPICAL COMPUTER MUST BE REPLACED DURING LIFETIME OF COMPUTER.

4. NO REGULATORY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO SMALL CAPACITORS CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED IN U. S. LEGAL AUTHORITY TO TAKE SUCH ACTION WILL NOT EXIST UNTIL CONGRESS APPROVES TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT WHICH WILL BE NEXT SUMMER AT EARLIEST.

5. DEPT. HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT JAPANESE PLANS TO BAN USE OF PCB' S IN SMALL CAPACITORS OTHER THAN THAT REPORTED IN REFTTEL, NOR HAVE WE HAD REPRESENTATIONS FROM U. S. EXPORTERS ABOUT THIS POTENTIAL NTB. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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